



State of Arizona

Department of Education

Procurement Unit



Date Request Submitted: 12/14/07

REQUEST

For

Approval to Enter Into a Cooperative Procurement American Diploma Project Algebra II End-of-Course Exam

In accordance with R2-7-1001, the Arizona Department of Education seeks approval to enter into a cooperative agreement with nine other states to participate in the American Diploma Project (ADP) Algebra II End of Course Exam. The deadline to participate in the Winter Field Test was December 1, 2007. This deadline has been extended so that Ohio and Achieve could work with Arizona on the additions and revisions needed to allow Arizona to become a party to this agreement. The deadline to participate in the spring 2008 Operational Test is February 1, 2008.

Background (see Attachment I – ADP Algebra II End of Course Exam Fact Sheet for additional information)

The ADP Algebra II End-of-Course Exam is being developed to help ensure high school graduates are prepared for both the college and work arenas. Algebra II is a “gateway course” for higher education and deals with quantitative reasoning skills important for the workplace. The common end-of-course exam will help ensure a consistent level of content and rigor in classes across different states. The content and test design of the American Diploma Project Algebra II End-of-Course Exam is continually being defined.

The contract for test development was awarded to Pearson Education Measurement in March 2007 by the State of Ohio (see Attachment II – Original Contract CSP902107). The state of Ohio is the lead state in this multi-state partnership sponsored by Achieve, Inc. Achieve will provide consulting, management and advisory services to the states regarding the procurement and administration of the contract and the reporting of exam results. Achieve will produce and release cross-state reports of exam results along with publicize and promote the Exam to other states, encouraging other states to become parties to the multi-state contract,

The winter 2008 field-test will be administered online, February 11-15, 2008. The spring 2008 operational exam will be administered May 1 – June 13, 2008. Students are eligible to participate if they have completed Algebra II. They can not be enrolled in Algebra II at the time of the test.

Analysis of the Ohio Procurement Process

Compliance with ARS 41-2634. ARS 41-2634 requires the cooperative procurement to comply with the requirements of that chapter. The Ohio procurement complies with ARS 41-2534 Competitive Sealed Proposals in the following manner:

- The proposals were solicited through a request for proposals (see Attachment III RFP CSP902107).
- Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 125.071 states “Notice of the request for proposals shall be given in accordance with rules the director shall adopt.” Ohio Administrative Code states, “Notice shall be advertised for the number of days determined by the department.” The Ohio RFP was issued September 29, 2006 and the proposal due date was November 27, 2006. This timeline is in excess of the amount of time that a solicitation is required to be open by the Arizona Procurement Code.
- The Ohio RFP was opened publically at the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.
- Part 4 page 16 Proposal Evaluation Criteria of the RFP refers to the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors. It states that “A total of 860 evaluation points will be assigned to the Offeror proposing the most favorable prices, which is 25 percent of the total possible weighted evaluation points (3440), based on a technically “strong” score of 2580 points. “ This, along with the complete verbiage of this section, details the importance of each evaluation criteria and how each are weight in the point formula used in awarding the contract.



State of Arizona

Department of Education

Procurement Unit

Date Request Submitted: 12/14/07



- Part 4 page 15 Clarification and Corrections of the RFP allows the State to request clarifications from any Offeror under active consideration and may give any Offeror the opportunity to correct defects in its Proposal.
- Part 4 page 16 Basis of Award of the RFP states the following concerning the award determination: "Award will be made to that responsible Offeror whose Proposal is determined by the evaluation committee to be the most advantageous overall, price and other factors considered, therefore providing the best value." The verbiage of the award process is very similar to that required by the Arizona Procurement Code.

Vendor List Analysis. The vendor list that was developed and used by the state of Ohio was derived from the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) commodity code 924-20 (see Attachment IV – Ohio Vendor List). That commodity code listing is comparable to 0924-0020 which would be used by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The Ohio RFP received 3 proposals in response which is very comparable to similar assessment RFP's issued by ADE. Most of the names differ on each list but the vendors on each list that are likely to respond to a similar RFP are comparable. (See also attachment V – AZ vendor listing.)

Evaluation/Award process. (Attachment VI – Ohio Proposal Evaluation Scoring)

The Ohio Evaluation process used 4 general phases:

- The procurement representative's initial review of all Proposals for defects.
- Evaluation of the Proposals.
- Request for more information (interviews, presentations, and/or demonstrations (If Necessary)).
- Negotiations (If Necessary).

The Ohio RFP states: "The Ohio DAS procurement representative shall review all Proposals for their format and completeness. The procurement representative normally rejects any incomplete or incorrectly formatted Proposal." This is similar to verbiage in R2-7-B312.

The Ohio RFP states "The basis for the award of a Contract as a result of this solicitation will be a detailed, integrated evaluation by the evaluation committee based on how well the Proposals satisfy the evaluation criteria specified herein." This is very similar language to that in R2-7-B314 Contract Award in the Arizona Procurement Code.

Estimated Cost. Standards and Assessment with the Department of Education has indicated that at this time Arizona's participation in 2008 will be limited to the winter field tests, in February. We are not anticipating any district to opt into the test the first year. Our financial commitment, therefore, for 2008 would be negligible. It is estimated the number of tests that will be ordered annually by Arizona will be approximately 20,000. According to the price schedule included in the contract, the cost per test is dependent on the total amount of test ordered by all states participating in the agreement. According to Achieve, the estimated price per test for the spring 2008 exam will be at the \$20.56 level. The cost for Arizona to participate in 2009 would then be approximately \$411,200.00, assuming the same participation level as 2008 (\$20.56/test x 20,000 tests).

- Included with this request is a copy of the contract amended to include the clauses required by Arizona and Arizona has an additional insured (Attachment VII – Contract including Arizona Clauses) and a copy of the revised M.O.U. with Achieve to include verbiage to include Arizona requirements (Attachment IX). The amended contract between the State of Ohio and Pearson was signed by Ohio on behalf of Arizona in accordance with the rules and procedures of that state. The M.O.U. does require a signature on our part. Also include is the Algebra II EOC Exam Multistate Participating Agreement (Attachment X) and New Participating State Addendum. (Attachment XI /Arizona Signature Required). The revised M.O.U. and the New Participating State Addendum include verbiage that both ADE and Achieve have agreed upon to satisfy Arizona contract requirements.



State of Arizona

Department of Education

Procurement Unit



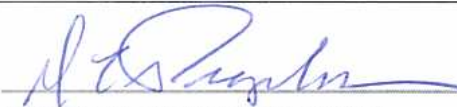
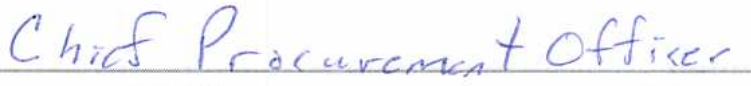

Date Request Submitted: 12/14/07

The above summary of the state of Ohio procurement process when awarding the contract for an Algebra II End-of-Course Exam shows that not only does the process meet the requirements under the Arizona Procurement Code but it is very similar to the process used by Arizona state agencies. We ask you to review the documents included with this request and approve the Department of Education's request to enter into this cooperative agreement.

The following documents are included with this request for approval and reference purposes:

- Attachment I - ADP Algebra II End-of-Course Fact Sheet
- Attachment II - Original contract CSP902107 The Development, Scoring, and reporting of an Algebra II End-of-Course-Exam
- Attachment III - Ohio Request for Proposals number CSP902107
- Attachment IV - Ohio Vendor List Summary
- Attachment V - AZ Vendor Listing for Commodity Code 0924-0020.
- Attachment VI - Proposal Evaluation - CSP902107
- Attachment VII - Ohio contract amended to include the clauses required by Arizona and inclusion of Arizona has an additional insured.
- Attachment VIII - Memorandum of Understanding (Original)
- Attachment IX - Amended Memorandum of Understanding (Arizona Signature Required)
- Attachment X - Algebra II EOC Exam Multistate Participating Agreement.
- Attachment XI - Algebra II EOC Exam Multistate Participating Agreement New Participating State Addendum. (Arizona Signature Required)

The Arizona Department of Education respectfully requests the approval of the Arizona State Procurement Office to enter into the above mentioned cooperative procurement.

		
ADE Representative (Name/Title)	Signature	Date

Approved by:		
		
Name / Title	Signature	Date
DEPUTY STATE PROCUREMENT ADMIN		